

College Celebrates Feast of Patron Saint

By **Sammy Mitchell**
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 19th, students were invited to attend the Feast of Saint Joseph, the patron of our college, and a religious celebration with many traditions. The annual blessing of food occurred in the foyer of the Core building at 9:45 am, where students helped themselves to the confections provided.

Later, Mass was held in the chapel at 4:30 pm, which was celebrated by the Most Reverend William Higi, Bishop of the Lafayette Diocese. The chapel was decorated with candles and flowers around the altar. Music Ministry had a larger than normal number of people singing in

honor of the occasion. Many students and faculty turned out for the celebration of one of the most important saints to our college.

A special dinner was held after Mass in the cafeteria. The tables were decorated with tablecloths and candles. Students served helped themselves to the potatoes, fresh beef, and numerous desserts the cafeteria staff provided for the special event.

Saint Joseph's Day, or the Feast of St. Joseph, is the principle religious feast day of Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is referred to as a "Solemnity" in the Roman Catholic Church, a "feast" in the provinces of the Anglican Communion, and a "feast" or "festival" in the Lutheran

Church. Saint Joseph's Day is the Patronal Feast Day for people named Joseph, Josephine, etc., for religious orders, schools, and parishes bearing his name, and for carpenters. It is also recognized as Father's Day in some Catholic countries, such as Spain. St. Joseph's Day is also the day when the swallows are traditionally believed to return to Mission San Juan Capistrano after having flown south for the winter.

Saint Joseph's Day is celebrated most in American communities with high proportions of Italians such as New York City and Chicago where observance often is expressed through "the wearing of red." Celebrants wear red clothing or accessories similar to the wearing of green on Saint Patrick's Day.

Johnny Cardinale Brings Comedy to SJC

By **Kynten Hannon**
Staff Writer

At 9 p.m. on Thursday, Johnny Cardinale graced Saint Joseph's College with his talent for the first time. The Ohio native comedian took the stage for just over an hour to entertain students with jokes and musical parody.

Cardinale poked fun at a great many songs that pervade today's society. Many of the trendiest songs in the country currently are painfully simple and have lyrics that often are barely discernable.

The popular melodies of songs such as "Hey There Delilah" and "Chasing Cars" were prodded for their all too familiar two-string tunes and the muttered lyrics that are deciphered only with the help of a lyrics translation site.

Also in the mix of musical patterns to be scorned was the inclusion of animalistic sounds which serve no sensible purpose in the majority of songs. Cardinale then compared modern music to the music of decades past.

A comparison of rock music's transition from the classic rock of Def Leopard and AC/DC has become much more

muted and passive by bands such as The Kings of Leon and Timbaland than the loud shouts we once heard advocating adventurous behaviors.

"I'm from Ohio so I identify with the people here and it's really nice to give a show in a familiar area. The audience was really great," Cardinale said. Cardinale recently returned from entertaining troops overseas.

"It's great to be back in the Midwest. Everyone was really enthusiastic and it was a lot of fun. It's not every day I give a show with a five-year-old in the audience though."

Cardinale has appeared on multiple shows that are famous for churning out famous comedians.

His career began at the famous Comedy Store in Hollywood when the owner noticed his obvious talent and placed him in a weekly line-up alongside such comedians as Carlos Mencia, Chris Rock, and Joe Rogan.

Since then, he has performed at every major club in Los Angeles, write and direct a short film that screened at Cannes, and has hosted "Clean Shots" on the Game Show Network.

Cardinale has also made appearances on the Emmys and

been interviewed by Chelsea Lately on the E! Channel.

Working side-by-side with many famous entertainers has not altered Cardinale's individual style. His unique brand of comedy brought some good laughs to the ballroom during his performance.

"I thought he was funny, but he was kind of like a lot of other comedians. But I still thought he was hilarious," said Mary Kate Kenney, Vice President of the Student Union Board.

"He used music a lot more than I thought he would, so I really liked that," she also said.

Johnny Cardinale tells a joke poking fun at the simplicity of the music of Snow Patrol. (Photo courtesy of Kynten Hannon).

OPERATION PAYDIRT: ART CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP

The SJC Art Club is involved in a very special project called Operation Paydirt: The Fundred Dollar Bill Project. The program is designed to help get clean water to the kids in New Orleans, not water that is polluted with lead, which can lead to serious illness. To help, people all over the country have been decorating blank one hundred dollar bills in whatever way they want. The Fundred Dollar Bill Armored Truck will then dump all these fundred bills on the steps of Congress to ask them to match the donation with real dollar bills. Professor Bonnie Zimmer is locally in charge of the project and is happy to announce that our campus is one of 125 locations across the country where the Fundred Armored Truck will be stopping. We need you to show up and give the project your support on April 1 at 9 am. For more details, you can talk to Bonnie or visit fundred.org.



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Rockin' Out to Dear Noel

By Amber Melvin
Staff Witer

On Friday, March 19, 2010, the band "Dear Noel" performed in the Halleck Center Ballroom. To start out the concert and get everyone pumped up for their performance, a couple of the band members, including Saint Joseph's College student, Ryan Drake's brother, played a couple of cover songs on acoustic guitar, such as "Hey Jessie." They also played "Wasting Away in Margaritaville", by Jimmy Buffett. After that, the other three band members came on stage and the whole band began playing one of their original songs. The band consisted of one bass guitar player, two electric guitar players, one drummer, and one keyboard player. The band, "Dear Noel" sounded like an Alternative Rock band. They originated in Gary, Indiana. The band member's names are Josh Drake, Josh Silveus, Jason Lewis, Kyle Carpenter-Synth, and RC Tellez. They just performed at the House of Blues. They played a decent number of their original

songs and everyone seemed to enjoy their music. Sophomore, Music Education major, Monica Mockler said, "They were better than I expected and they played a few tunes that I have heard before and liked. I also liked how they started off with acoustic music and then played with a heavier sound. They were a very upbeat band and the audience enjoyed their enthusiasm. They seemed to really have fun performing. By the band "Dear Noel" having fun, the audience had fun. The guys were also really entertaining to watch while they were performing their concert. They were very good with conversing with the concert audience and making it feel like it was the first time they performed live.. In case you were unable to make it out to the concert, for what ever reason, you can check them out on www.myspace.com/dearnoe1. They have some of their music on iTunes. They also have a Facebook page and a Twitter page. So, you can also see what they are about and become a fan of them or just simply listen to their music.



Three members of Dear Noel performing. (photo courtesy of Amber Melvin).

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 25-Sunday, March 28: Campus Ministry-sponsored Kairos LV

Friday, March 26: SUB-sponsored band ZIV at 9 p.m. in the SJC Theatre

Thursday-Sunday, April 8-10: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at 8 p.m. in the SJC Theatre

Pumas Build During their Spring Break



By Mike Koscielny
Editor-in-Chief

The week of spring break found twenty Puma students and two staff and faculty advisors volunteering their time with the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The group spent their break building in Meridian, Mississippi.

Leaving the first Saturday of break, the group drove through the night to their destination, stopping briefly for lunch in Selma, Alabama on the anniversary of Bloody Sunday—when 600 civil rights marchers were attacked on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

"I thought it was neat to stop in Selma and walk across the bridge that was so meaningful in our country's history," sophomore Biology major Meigan Rennels said. "It was even better because it was the anniversary of Bloody Sunday and there were people there remembering and celebrating."

The group spent the week working to ready a modular home. The home was going to be the final home built as a part of Operation Home Delivery—the project to provide Katrina survivors with homes. Unfortunately, the family moving into the home had not been chosen, so the SJC student did not get to meet who they were building for, which is typically a very rewarding part of the Habitat experience.

"Overall, the trip was very rewarding. To see an area directly affected by Katrina opened my eyes, and the group's eyes, to the devastation inflicted firsthand. The work we were going to do was going to give someone a new beginning, even if we didn't get a chance to meet the people moving in," junior Marketing major Samantha Tapia said.

The weather was fortuitously beautiful most days. There was one day of rain, which slowed the work. However, the students stayed positive.

"We were stuck in the house and limited on what we could get done, but we still had a lot to do and it was a great experience," Rennels said.

While the team worked hard during the week, they did try and enjoy their time on spring break with other activities as well. They went bowling, toured a Victorian mansion and teased with ghost stories about its former occupants, enjoyed riding on a historical carousel and during their final day of break, traveled to New Orleans and enjoyed the city and its St. Patty's Day celebrations.

"After working hard all week, it was great to go to another city and state to have fun as a team and relax," senior English Creative Writing major Ben Kalinowski said. "Personally, I'd never been to New Orleans and it was by far one of the coolest places I've ever been. I really enjoy the culture, the people and the celebration in the city. It was a wonderful conclusion to the trip."



Above, Somantho Tapia signs the board members "tagged" and built into the house, to mark the work they had done. Below, the Habitat for Humanity members pose for a group photo before resuming work. (photo courtesy of Jill Von Gessel).

Do not forget that registration is April 6th. You must have your February balance paid in order to register on time.

Do It! Remembering to Volunteer

By Bailey Snider
Guest Columnist



Habitat for Humanity. I am going to say it here and now—EVERYONE should go on a Habitat for

Humanity trip.

Want know why? Because each trip is a wonderful, fulfilling, and completely unforgettable experience that everyone should have the chance to enjoy.

Now, you may ask why I say this. BECAUSE IT'S TRUE!

All right, I promise I'm done trying to be belligerently persuasive. But seriously, as someone who had never done any volunteer work of any kind, I went on a Habitat for Humanity trip and came back a changed person.

Before going on this Habitat trip, I was just an average 21-year-old American girl. As a Christian, I thought volunteering was a wonderful thing, though I had never been too troubled to be involved in the past. I had watched several friends go on various kinds of volunteer trips; all returned with rave reviews of their time spent helping others. I enjoyed their stories, even thought to myself that I should do that someday. Someday being the operative word, of course.

Fortuitously, I got the chance to go on a Habitat trip this past spring break. The trip filled up quickly (within the first two minutes, actually), and I was not fortunate enough to gain a spot. But by no small wonder, my name ended up high on the waiting list—lo and behold, I got an email two weeks before the departure inviting me to participate!

Mind you, a part of me was not completely thrilled with this. I was pleased I was going to experience my first volunteer venture; I was less pleased with other aspects of the trip. For example, we would be gone the entirety of spring break. As a

history student of Ilicia Sprey's who has a Core 10 paper due in about a month for Susan Chatten and is also involved in the spring musical, I have little time to spare and had originally planned to spend spring break doing homework and recharging. And let's be honest—homework (for me) was not going to happen on this trip.

Also, I don't know anything about building houses. I had never even touched a hammer—or any kind of tool for that matter—before this trip. Okay, that's a white lie. Maybe I had used a screwdriver for menial household chores. But that still isn't on the same plane as building a house. In fact, I could not tell you what even went into building a house before this trip. (I really still can't, but I at least feel that I'm more knowledgeable about the subject.) I was completely naïve and inept when it came to manual labor, thus adding to my trepidation surrounding the trip.

One final anxiety concerning my attendance on this Habitat trip was my lack of acquaintance and familiarity with most of the people also going on the trip. I only knew a couple of people; by know, I mean I talk with them on a regular basis and am unafraid to look like an imbecile in front of them. It was discomforting to know I was going to be approximately 800 miles away (according to Google maps) from everything that is familiar, with a group of people, most of whom I did not know well and in front of which I was somewhat afraid of looking like an imbecile.

If anyone read one of my earlier articles for the Observer, I openly admit I am a shy person. I have made leaps and bounds from my high school status as resident wallflower, but I still fight my timid nature each and every day. Therefore, appearing imbecilic in front of a group of relative strangers terrified me. And do not even ask me about conversing with them. I was petrified.

Despite desperate amounts of apprehension, I agreed to go on

the trip. In the two weeks before we left, I talked myself in and out it more times than I can count—or care to. But I was there, for better or for worse, at midnight on March 6, cramming myself and my personal effects into one of two vans Nick Schafer and Fred Berger would be driving.

Before I knew it, I was in Meridian, Mississippi, nervously making small talk and anxiously awaiting my first day of hard labor.

Then came the epiphany—that change I mentioned earlier in the article, if you will:

I had *fun*. Not only did I have fun, but I had TONS of it.

First off, I enjoyed the work immensely, despite my feared ineptness and terror I was going to lose limbs to power tools I had never dreamed of using before. There was something so rewarding when, at the end of the day, I could look at the house we were working on and see progress that was going to help a deserving family in need of a home. Albeit, some days the progress was minimal. The weather was not entirely cooperative; a couple days it rained and we were all stuck inside the house, getting in each other's ways and hindering work much of the time instead of facilitating it. But it was still fun and gratifying.

Even more than the work, though, I enjoyed the people. I enjoyed the people we saw. I enjoyed the people we met. (One was a Katrina victim who now lives in Meridian and volunteers for Habitat as a way of giving back. Her name was Miss Eileen, and at the end of the week, when we were invited to see her beautiful Habitat-built home, she nearly brought us all to tears with her heartfelt thanks and joy in our decision to help someone in the same way she had been helped.)

And I enjoyed the people I spent the most time with—my fellow SJC students and staff members who were lucky, just as I had been, to garner a spot on this trip. Everyone was so kind and accepting, which helped when I

was imbecilic on the worksite. We all realized patience and tolerance were imperative if we were to work together; and work together we did.

Everyone helped everyone, whether it was teaching someone how to hold a hammer, use a table saw, or helping someone write a paper. (It's true, some people did get homework done!) By the end of the week, I was even hanging around with and finding more in common with people I had thought did not care for me personally and I did not pretend to care for as well. We put our differences aside and learned about each other in a way we never would have on this campus.

And that, I began to realize, was the true lesson of this trip. I originally thought going on a Habitat trip was going to be about other people—other people I was going to help, other people with whom I was going to be. Do you know how surprised I was to find out the trip was about me and my ability to grow and change as a human being?

Everything I did, whether it was using a nail gun or playing a game of spoons, led to some new level of personal introspection. I learned about myself, even more than I learned about those around me. Building a house for a Katrina family made me understand my own fortune in life. Making new friends out of mere acquaintances forced me out of my comfort zone and into a fresh plane of confidence and understanding.

As I look back on it, I am overjoyed I went on that trip. I went on it intending to help other people and came back with a new perspective and more personal assistance from those around me than I thought possible.

I suppose that's the real joy of volunteering. If you give of yourself without expecting anything in return, God provides payment (of a sort) all the same. That's right—Habitat for Humanity is a reward for all involved. I certainly feel God was rewarding me.

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The Lightning Thief Electrifies the Silver Screen

By Eileen Mills-Groninger
Staff Writer



(Photo courtesy of <http://blog.onlinemoviesunlimited.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/percy-jackson-and-the-lightning-thief-movie.jpg>)

So once again, I have the unfortunate experience of being a poor college student, which generally results in my inability to watch recent movies. Luckily, I have friends and a job on campus, so once again I was able to go see a recent release. (Huzzah for double dates!) Being a child

at heart, my compadres (thanks Latin America Core, I'm speaking Spanish again) and I decided to go see "Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief," the new movie based on the book series, "Percy Jackson and the Olympians." The first film is based on the first book, and according to my sources who have actually read the book, it is a very, very loose interpretation, but it is still a good film to see, and I would have to agree.

The movie follows the story of our young boy, Percy Jackson, who is a dyslexic youth with an interesting path in life. When he was born, his father left and his mother married an absolutely repulsive man whose odor is as equally repugnant as his personality. Without him though, Percy would not be able to stay with his mother and go to the school that is helping him with his dyslexia. One day on a field trip, his substitute teacher pulls him aside, transforms into a mythical creature and tries to attack him, looking for "it". Percy is rescued by his best friend Grover and Mr.

Brunner, his history teacher. He soon finds out that his father is really the Greek God, Poseidon, and he is currently in a lot of danger. Grover takes Percy back to his mother, and they rush to take him to a special camp for kids like Percy, the daughters and sons of the Greek Gods. On the way, they are attacked by the Minotaur, and Percy's mother is captured by the beast and taken away. Percy wants to save her, but Grover (who is actually a satyr, go figure) forces Percy to go to the camp, where he will be safe.

Once within the camp, he is taken to the sick bay to tend his wounds, and in the morning he is taken on the tour of the camp and assigned to a team so that he can train and learn how to defend himself. After joining Luke, the son of Hermes, on the blue team, he helps win a game of capture the flag. When he battles the daughter of Athena, Annabeth, he hears the voice of his father coaching him, and he learns how he can control water and heal himself if necessary. This proves

to be the key to him winning the game Later when they are celebrating the victory around a bonfire, suddenly Hades forms in the fire and accuses Percy of stealing Zeus' lightning, and offers a trade. In exchange for the lightning, Hades will return Percy's mother. From there, Percy makes it his mission to rescue his mother, even though he has nothing to exchange.

Luke's father Hermes is one of the only gods to go down to Hades' lair and return without problems, and so Percy consults him. After attaining a shield and Herme's famous winged shoes, Percy sets out, followed by Grover and Annabeth. They go on a mission to find Persephone's pearls, their only way to get out of Hades once they arrive, and along the way they run into several horrible mythical creatures, including Medusa, before they finally arrive in Hades. From there, they discover who the real lightning thief is, and Percy sets to make it right. The rest of the film is an explanation of why the gods are not allowed to take

part in their children's' lives, and Percy's return to the camp.

There are plenty of twists and turns in this film, and it is absolutely packed with celebrities. Sean Bean plays Zeus, Uma Thurman plays Medusa, Pierce Bronson plays Mr. Brunner, also known as Chiron, and many other actor and actresses. The whole film is just fantastic, and the script is incredibly well-written and performed by the players. There are even moments of hilarious improvised jokes, and it is an enjoyable film for most ages. I highly suggest this to anyone looking to find a movie to tide them over until Harry Potter is released. It is well worth the money, and it is just as good.



Alkaline Trio Travel Back in Time

By Michael Garrity
Staff Writer

I have this habit that some of my friends and family really don't appreciate; at times I can be a little too hyperbolic. I get a lot of flak for too often saying something like that any movie which I really enjoy is "the best movie ever," and similarly grandiose comments. But trust me when I say that Alkaline Trio really are one of my favorite bands, ever, and that I genuinely consider them to be one of the better examples of music in the last decade.

It would be easy to dismiss Alkaline Trio because they are, for the most part, very simple. Their roots are based in the punk rock movement of the 1970s and 80s, and thus their repertoire over the last fourteen years has consisted primarily of three chords and subject matter that deviates little from girls and depression and other dark, angsty stuff. What really sets Alk3 (as they're affectionately referred to as by their dedicated internet fans) apart from almost all other bands, save those who came after

their success and borrowed their sound, is the way they mix the aggression of punk rock with pop sensibilities. Though they may not be known for having the technical skills of a band like Tool or for pushing the boundaries of music theory like Radiohead, they have essentially conquered and expanded their small niche in the music industry. This is a band that really revolutionized the term "pop-punk," and their influence is felt on the stages of every Warped Tour.

Needless to say, after garnering some of the most hardcore fans in recent music history since the release of their debut album, *Goddamn!*, it was no surprise when many were left with a bad taste in their mouth after the release of *Crimson* in 2005 (and, later, 2008's *Agony and Irony*). Though most of the traditional Alkaline Trio elements were in place, the band were at a point in their careers where they wanted to really experiment, sometimes successfully and sometimes not so much. I can only imagine that when these unhappy devotees listened to the first and title track from the

band's newest album, *This Addiction*, they were likely very pleased.

The general consensus among most fans is that the two best albums in the career of the Alkaline Trio are *From Here to Infirmary* (2001) and its follow-up, *Good Mourning* (2003). *This Addiction* sounds like the missing link between the two. It's a bit poppier and has more instrumental experimentation than *From Here to Infirmary*, but without the sleek production and mainstream sound of *Good Mourning*. What is really refreshing about this album, though, is that it really returns to the band's roots. Six of the eleven songs on the album clock in at under three minutes and the dark lyrical content about bad relationships, alcohol, and other fun stuff found in their early work appear in abundance on this album. And that's pretty punk rock, right?

One noticeable change has been the evolution in the very distinct styles of the bands two primary songwriters. In their earliest work, the two had very similar approaches but as the band has grown and experimented, guitarist Matt Skiba and bassist Dan Andriano have really widened the gap between their individual sounds. Through their previous three albums, especially, this was very evident but it interesting to hear the differences with their return to the band's original style. Indeed, you can tell



Photo courtesy of <http://ymfblog.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/20f2ab9cf0a9c58b394fbfd8bf796e8.jpg>

right from the beginning which member authored which track even with this more traditional, less expansive pop-punk sound. This isn't necessarily the best release by Alkaline Trio, but that doesn't say much really. *This Addiction* has no problem holding its own against their nearly fifteen-year-old discography. Many long-time fans will find the return to a more innocent sound refreshing, but it is also good enough to appeal to new fans, as well. In many ways, this was the perfect step for the band to take. Their style has never been terribly off-putting to a mainstream audience, and now that they have the fan base to ensure some measure of success, they can basically do whatever they choose. (They even produced this whole album on their own, which is a first for the band.) What they chose was to create *This Addiction*, a solid album with plenty of great moments and little to no bad ones. It may not be groundbreaking, but it is definitely worth checking out.



(Photo courtesy of http://www.onmilwaukee.com/images/articles/al/alkalinetrio/alkalinetrio_story1.jpg)

Alkaline Trio - This Addiction

1. This Addiction
2. Dine, Dine My Darling
3. Lead Poisoning
4. Dead on the Floor
5. The American Scream
6. Off the Map
7. Draculina
8. Eating Me Alive
9. Piss and Vinegar
10. Dorothy
11. Fine

Produced by: Alkaline Trio

Matt Skiba - Guitar/
Vocals
Dan Andriano - Bass/
Vocals
Derek Grant - Drums/
Vocals

Release Date: February 23, 2010

Best Songs: "This Addiction," "Lead Poisoning," "Dorothy," and "Fine"

The Mabinogion Translated by Sioned Davies

By Sandra Blum
Staff Writer

Welcome to a world where magicians rule kingdoms and the spoken word binds a person to fate. A world where heroes live but are subject to the same weaknesses as the people they protect, and do not always survive the quests they embark upon. This is the world veiled within *The Mabinogion*, a collection of eleven stories set within the Welsh landscape, handed down from generation to generation to preserve the grand past of a people with an indomitable spirit.

The Four Branches of the Mabinogi open the book, beginning with the story of Rhiannon, best known as a goddess of the Celtic pantheon, and her marriage to King Pwyll of Britain. But it is their son Pryderi who connects the four branches. While the first branch only covers his birth, his abduction by a mysterious creature, and restoration to his parents, the following three follow him as a grown man and ruler of his own lands.

The second branch is the legend of Bendigeidfran, the giant king of Britain and brother of Branwen who marries the king of Ireland. Through a misunderstanding, war breaks out between the two kingdoms, leaving only seven British warriors alive at the end, Pryderi being one of

them. Since absurdly long life without it showing on your face was common in ancient Britain, the seven survivors go back to Bendigeidfran's castle and live for eighty years before having to face the outside world again without any lands of their own left. Pryderi and his friend Manawydan begin to live by the crafts that they have learned over the years, but they soon learn that they are cursed, and only an act of mercy can break it.

The fourth branch moves to a different kingdom in Britain, ruled by Math. Pryderi is mentioned in the story as an enemy, but in that mention lays the end of Pryderi's connection to all four branches. The fourth branch of *The Mabinogion* follows Math's nephews, Gwydion and Lleu. Theirs is a story of love, betrayal, and revenge, and my personal favourite of the four branches. But if ancient Welsh mythology is not what suits your taste, *The Mabinogion* also offers five original tales of the most legendary king of all time, Arthur.

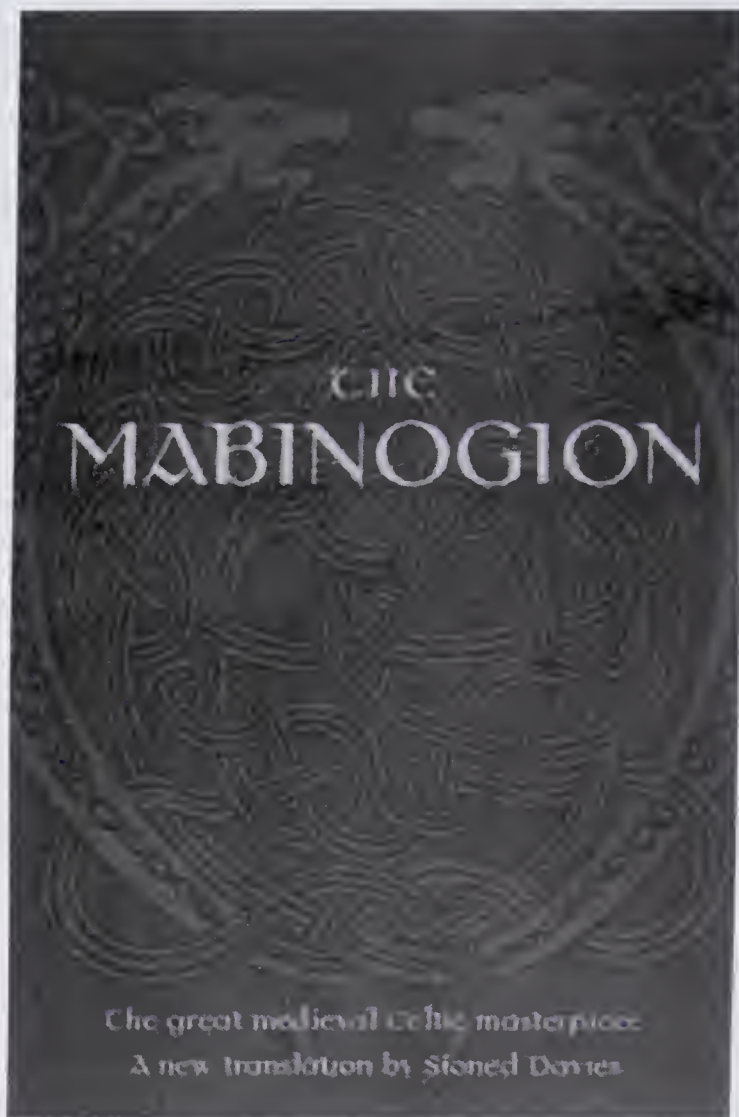
The origins of King Arthur are very much disputed, since everyone from the Welsh to the Italians claim him as their own. The five tales in the Mabinogion however, like all the others, are written from a long oral tradition, and seem to have the legitimate claim on the famous king. Arthur is, of course, an important character in all five of the stories, but he, like Pryderi in the four branches, is

the character that connects the five stories together. The five stories found in *The Mabinogion* follow the knights: Peredur, who came to be known as Percival, Owain who became Yvaine, Gereint, or Eric, and Culhwch, who was a cousin of Arthur's. The fifth story surrounding Arthur's court is told through a dream, and gives the explanation of what happened the day that Arthur and Mordred met in battle and broke the Round Table.

The final two stories, "The Dream of the Emperor Maxin" and "Lludd and Llefelys" are stories told to remember the power that the Welsh once had. The glories of ancient Britain are well illustrated in the two stories, with women of such beauty that they capture the heart of the emperor of Rome himself, and when he is in need, none but the Welsh are able to defeat the greatest army in the world. They also had men who possessed such intelligence and magical abilities, that two brothers were able to free the entire country from a terrible curse that threatened the lives of all men. The pride of the Celtic people runs very strong in these last two stories.

The Mabinogion is a collection of stories out of another time and a culture that is often ignored in favour of the more prominent cultures of today. But within the pages of recorded oral stories, you may find that the stories you read when you were young, and the stories that you may still treasure today, had their

origins in the deep past of an ancient and proud people who are still telling their stories today, and who have not forgotten that once, they were the makers of history.



(Photo courtesy of http://www.tbpcntrol.co.uk/TWS/CoverImages_01/019/283/0192832425.jpg)

The Fear of Fallen Friends

By Jennifer Ruff
Features Editor

Fear is a very common emotion. It hits us most of us at the time when we least expect it, like when we are cornered facing something we dread. Yet there are times when we expect to be afraid. This is one of those times for me. I am under the conclusion that I have friends who after May 9th, I will never see again. I used to think that I could bend over backwards to keep the connection and it would keep everything normal. I learned after high school that this is an almost impossible task, for it has the possibility of becoming one-sided.

By this point in my life, I have been in far too many

friendships where this has occurred. I am just one of those people who constantly want to make people happy. This can be troublesome at times because it often means I sacrifice my own feelings. I have had people tell me that I let people use me. I set aside my own needs to the point where it could be considered a tad on the unhealthy side and in some occasions, am tossed away like a used Kleenex.

Although I do see this description in myself at times, I feel that I have come a long way from that scared high school graduate. I am at a stage where I expect to see an effort out of people who I consider my friend. I am not exactly asking for them to go out of their way and to set aside their own lives like I

have done, for that would be selfish. I simply want to have signs that I am not in something that is one-sided. I want to know that I am not caring more than they are. I do not want to be hurt again.

So, as May 9th draws



They make it look so easy! (Photo courtesy of <http://womenonthefence.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/friends-season.jpg>)

closer I think about this expected fear, and I am actually somewhat ok with it. Even if I might not have the close connections that I have right now, it does not mean that it would necessarily be a bad thing. In the end all of us are connected to this place. We are all Pumas and will leave here with the memories of our college

years. Now although this does not replace the friendships we leave here, it is at least something we can't leave behind.



(Photo courtesy of <http://craigrobertson.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/pain1.jpg>)

Pumas Reach the NCAA Elite 8

By Ken Badylak
Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team completed their run through the NCAA Midwest Regional with a 104-103 triple overtime victory over Quincy University at the Sportscenter in Owensboro, Kentucky. Phillip Collins converted his third game-winning basket of the tournament to push SJC to its fourth Elite Eight appearance in the program's history. SJC is the first eighth seed to reach the Elite Eight since seeding started in 1994.

The Hawks (23-9) led by as many as 14 points in the second half through a strong effort from Josh Brock in the post. QU led 59-49 with just over six minutes left in the game, but behind a hustling defensive effort the Pumas (20-11) charged back into the contest.

In the closing seconds, the Hawks held a 69-67 lead with Andreas Coleman at the line. Coleman converted one of two foul shots to keep SJC within one possession. Dayvon Sloan (Fr., Louisville, Ky./ Waggener) rushed the ball up to the front court and converted a long three-pointer with less than three seconds left in regulation. QU's last second shot went long the game went to overtime.

Quincy took control in the extra period by taking an 80-73 lead with less than two minutes on the clock. Three consecutive turnovers and fouls by the Hawks put Sloan on the line where he converted six straight free throws. Josh Edmonds connected on two from the charity stripe with 15 seconds left to give QU an 85-82 lead. However, Courtney Belger fouled Sloan attempting a three-point basket with nine seconds left. Sloan's shots were true and the game was forced to a second overtime.

SJC took control in the second extra period as Austin Peebles (Sr., Forsyth, Ill./Maroa-Forsyth) converted an offensive rebound into a lay-up to give the Pumas a 90-87 lead. Billy Baptist tied the game with a long three-point basket from the corner, but Sloan answered again a quick three of his own to put SJC back on top 93-90.

Leading 95-92 with just over a minutes to play, Mookie Pierre drained another three-point basket to tie the game. Both the Hawks and Pumas had opportunities to

win the game, but their final possessions miss-fired and the marathon went to a third overtime.

Pierre opened the third overtime frame with a three-point play but Sloan converted two foul shots and a three-point basket to give SJC a 100-98 lead. Still leading by two points with less than 30 seconds in the game, Tyler Burke hit a clutch three-point basket from the corner to give the Hawks a 103-102 lead. SJC set up their final possession and spread the floor. Through precise ball movement Michael Lipton (Fr., Crown Point, Ind./ Crown Point) was left open from 17 feet, but missed wide left. Collins slid into the lane for the offensive rebound and put-back to give the Pumas a 104-103 lead with nine tenths on the clock. QU's half-court shot missed and SJC advanced to the Elite Eight.

Mookie Pierre finished with 32 points to lead the Hawks as he also earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team. Justin Brock finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds before fouling out of the contest. Brock was also selected to the All-Tournament Team after recording a double-double

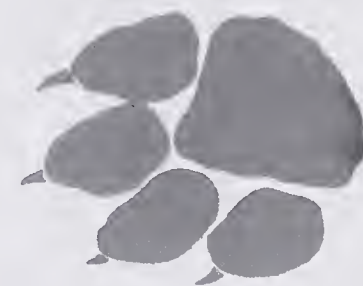
Dayvon Sloan scored a game high 45 points, all after halftime, to push the Pumas to victory. Andrew Helmer (Sr., Highland,

Ind.) finished with 17 points and a team high seven rebounds before fouling out of the game. Phillip Collins added 16 points and was named the Most Outstanding Player. Helmer and Sloan also represented SJC on the All-Tournament team.

The Pumas played Cal Poly Pomona in Springfield, Massachusetts on Wednesday. Since the stories for *The Observer* needed to be sent to the publisher on Tuesday, the results of the game aren't here. Whether the Pumas won or lost, though, they have greatly exceeded expectations and had a season to remember. Congratulations to the men's basketball team, and if they did win last night, they might as well go all the way. Go Pumas!



Photo: Dayvon Sloan scored 45 points in a 104-103 victory over Quincy University. (Photo courtesy of SJC Sports Information)



Free Agent Frenzy Dying Down

By Jeremy Butterfield
Staff Writer

With the 2010 NFL football season still six months away, some players are resting and others are looking for a job. Also, next year in the NFL there will be no salary cap for any team to operate by, which means that a team could sign any number of players and not worry about a cap limit. It also means the wealthier teams will get some great players.

This is both good news and bad news for the two local teams. The Bears do not have a first or second round pick in this year's draft. Therefore, they went and got some great players to start for them right away instead of a few years down the road. The Bears decided to go after good veterans

in defensive end Julius Peppers running back Chester Taylor. They also got a veteran tight end in Brandon Manumaleuna, who has been in the NFL for nine years.

This is also bad for the Colts. Since they made it to the divisional round of the playoffs they are restricted on who they can go after in the free agent pool. The Colts do not need a lot of help at any position, but their defense does have some question marks. Mel Kiper, Jr., ESPN's top draft analyst, says that the Colts will be looking for a few good defensive players so that they could train and model for their system. They have signed offensive tackle Adam Terry, who played his first four years in Baltimore where he played in 48

games. Another good fit for the Colts would be getting a good running back to take some of the burden off of Peyton Manning.

During this time of the football offseason, every player is up for grabs if they are a free agent, unless the player is an amazing talent who gets his contract renewed before the offseason. Kyle Vanden Bosch has started 74 games at defensive end for the Tennessee Titans the past 5 years. The Titans were one of the best defensive teams the past few years statistically. Vanden Bosch was picked up by the Detroit Lions, who need all the help they can get. Scott Fujita is another great linebacker that got let go by the New Orleans Saints, who won the Super Bowl this past year. Scott started eleven games for

the Saints in 2009 and was picked up by the Cleveland Browns two days after he was declared a free agent.

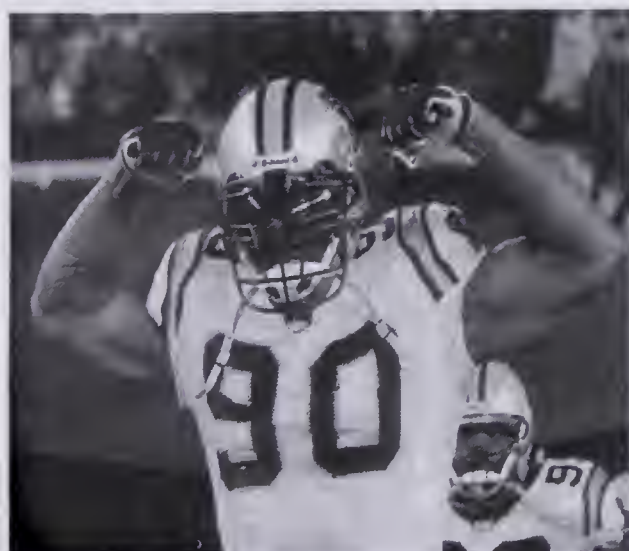
On February 22, 2010, LaDainian Tomlinson was cut from the San Diego Chargers, where he became recognized as one of the greatest running backs of all time. His last two seasons with the Chargers were the only times that he did not have 300-plus carries. He is still a mobile running back, but since they have Darren Sproles, who can also catch the ball, they are looking at the new kid for the future.

Another remarkable running back let go by his team this year was Brian Westbrook, who spent eight years with the Philadelphia Eagles. He is a running back who can catch the ball as well, but

but because they drafted a new running back he became expendable. Another famous name for his on and off the field antics is Terrell Owens. The big problem with picking up Owens is that he might cause problems in your locker room and cause trouble. Trouble seems to follow him, but he is still a talented impact player.

A lot of money is getting thrown around with all of the big name free agents available. We'll see how they perform with their new teams.

Photos (Left to Right): Julius Peppers, Kyle Vanden Bosch, and LaDainian Tomlinson have all found new teams in free agency. (Photos courtesy of blog.taragona.com)



Better to be Lucky than Good?

By Tomas Caraballo
Staff Writer

Two years ago, Brook and Robin Lopez led the third seeded Stanford Cardinals to the sweet sixteen. Brook was by far the more skilled of the two brothers, which led to him being drafted tenth overall by the New Jersey Nets and becoming the starting center just seven games into the 2008-2009 season.

Robin was drafted fifteenth overall by the Phoenix Suns and started only seven games in 2008-2009. Brook had a very productive rookie season with averages of 13 points, 8.1 rebounds, and 1.8 blocks per game. He was named to the All-Rookie first team and finished third for the Rookie of the Year Award. Robin averaged 3.2 points and 2 rebounds in 10 minutes per game.

This year, Brook Lopez has improved on his already solid rookie numbers and has solidified himself as one of the best young centers in the NBA. Robin Lopez is also getting more playing time but will never be more than a mediocre big man. However, Robin should be glad that his brother was the better of the two and was drafted first, because Robin is going to get his first chance to participate in the playoffs. Brook's New Jersey team is not only going to miss the playoffs, they are in danger of finishing with the worst single season record in NBA history.

Is it better to be lucky than good? In this case, yes. Robin Lopez may never become more than a solid backup center, but at least he won't forever be associated with the worst team in NBA history. Sadly, no matter what Brook Lopez does throughout his career, his membership on this 2009-2010 New Jersey Nets team will always follow him wherever. When the brothers retire and reminisce about their careers, Robin can wait until Brook is done listing his accomplishments and say, "Dude, you played for the 09-10 Nets."



TOP: Brook Lopez is good, but his team sucks. (Photo courtesy of cdn.turner.com) BOTTOM: His team's good, but Robin Lopez is average at best. (Photo courtesy of www.lowposts.com)

Puma Softball Profile: Kara Kristoff

By Ben Kalinowski
Sports Editor



Kara Kristoff is a senior Business Administration major on the Saint Joseph's College women's softball team. (Photo courtesy of SJC Sports Information)

Year? Senior

Major? Business Administration

Hometown? Crown Point, Ind.

Favorite Sports Movie?
A League of Their Own

When did you start playing tennis?
When I was around 6 years old.

If you could play any position other than third base, what would it be?
Middle infield.

White Sox or Cubs?
CUBS!

Who is your biggest role model and why?
My mom. She is the strongest person I know and supports me and my brother in everything we do.

Favorite SJC softball memory?
Defeating Lewis two years ago. Lewis is our biggest rival and we played them on the weekend of The Little 500. We had a great fan turnout and we won the game in 14 innings.

If you could play another sport, what would it be?
I tried a lot of sports as a kid, but I would probably go with gymnastics.

Biggest guilty please?
Peanut M&M's

What Core has been your favorite?

Core 7 - I loved learning about China.

Team Edward or Team Jacob?
Neither. But I haven't seen the second movie so my feelings may change.

Do you have any syblings?
Yes, a 21 year old brother.

What did you give up for Lent?
Cursing

What do you plan on doing after graduation?
I'm going to move back home and plan on getting an internship or entry level position at a Public Relations firm in Chicago.

What spot in the lineup do you most enjoy hitting in?
Leadoff

What is your Core 10 paper topic?
Ethics in reality TV.

Who is your favorite professional softball player?
Natasha Watley. She played shortstop for the U.S. Olympic Softball Team.

Melissa Buche an All-American Again

By Ken Badylak
Sports Information Director

Melissa Buche (Jr., Lowell, Ind./Lowell) of the Saint Joseph's College women's indoor track team finished fifth in the high jump at the NCAA Indoor Championships on Saturday in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Buche, the Great Lakes Valley Conference Field Athlete of the Year and record holder achieved All-American status for the second time in her career.

Buche seeded fourth in

the event cleared a height of 5 feet, 7.25 inches on her first attempt. The height increments proceeded to 5 feet, 8.5 inches on Buche's next jump, a height she cleared enroute to becoming the GLVC's Field Athlete of the Year. However, only four competitors cleared 5 feet 8.5 inches as Abby Kacsandi of Ashland won the event with a mark of 5 feet, 9.75 inches.

Alexis DeJean (Jr., Brownsburg, Ind./Brownsburg) competed in both the weight throw and shot put

at the Convention Center in Albuquerque. DeJean, a 2010 All-GLVC First Team selection finished 11th in the shot put with a mark of 45 feet, 7.5 inches. With a mark of 51 feet, 1 inch, Kelly Ash of Ashland won the shot put competition.

DeJean also finished 12th in the weight throw with a mark of 51 feet, 5.5 inches. Amanda Madden from Northern State won the event with a mark of 65 feet.

"To have two athletes finish amongst the nation's best is an accomplishment both Melissa

and Alexis can take pride in," said Head Coach Bill Massoels who now has coached 16 All-Americans in his tenure.

"Getting experience on a stage like the National Championships is something an athlete can always utilize in competitive situations."

Photo: Melissa Buche placed fifth in the high jump at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Albuquerque, NM. (Photo courtesy of SJC Sports Information)



Karma and the Cosmos

By Mystical Martha



Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
You get stuck in an elevator with someone you really hate. Although this might be cause for a fist fight, it ends up just being an awkward silence until you get rescued by the fire department.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May. 19)
After a long week, you finally find the time to relax with a terrible movie marathon to make you laugh and the satisfaction of knowing there are people in the world worse off than you.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
You are really excited because spring is in the air! You enjoy the great weather by going outside and rolling around in the grass because you've missed it so much. Just watch out for chigger bites.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
The ladybug invasion has finally come to a head when you wake up one morning to find ladybugs crawling all over you while you sleep. You run screaming outside, but find there are just as many of the nasty bugs flying around as in your bed.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
They say that March goes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, so I'm sorry that your part of the month has already come to an end Leos.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
The radio is on your side today. The same station keeps playing all the songs you love without any commercials! Then you realize you have a CD on.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
Allergies become a bad problem for you over the next few days. While you're sneezing and wiping watery eyes, remember that it could be worse and you could be allergic to water or the sun.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Someone hides sticky notes all over your room. Each has a list of five things ranging for their five favorite flavors of soup to five reasons to never date your childhood best friend. Oddly, it takes you five days to find them all.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
You are invited to a party by your friends for the weekend. You get really excited and can't wait to go. Unfortunately, they move the time up to when you have to leave for work and you

end up not being able to go to the party.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
You wake up with aching muscles and you can't remember why they would be hurting until your mean cousin calls you and asks how your weekend working on a farm was while he spent it down in Mexico partying.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
You get bored with your look and decide to do something drastic with your hair. Somehow you think it's a good idea to let your two year old sister be your hair stylist.

Pisces (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)
You develop a twitch in your eye for a day and people get creeped out because they keep thinking that you are winking.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to ehq7585@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

~

"She's probably having wild sex with somebody or something."

~

"Pre-marital sex is like Taco Bell. It's cheap, quick, but not the best."

~

"How else to end mid-term week than to talk about dinosaur sex?"

~

"Let's make like a fetus and head out."

~

"Her life is like a hot tub. Hot, steamy and three people inside."

Every issue we will be including a spotlight on all of the Measure submitters. We will be taking the best submissions and including them here, in the Measure Spotlight! If you have any poems or short stories you would like to submit, let us know. Send them to Elyse Hillyer at ehq7585.

Fact of the Matter

All people with blue eyes share a common ancestor.

Bees are being trained to sniff out bombs for the American government.

Crayons were invented in New York in 1903.

The Hydra Spyder will be the first mass produced amphibious car.

Brainfreeze is the swelling of blood vessels in the brain after it is tricked into thinking it is cold.

The first video game, Spacewar, was made in MIT in the 1960s.

Doctors say that a toke of marijuana should stop a severe asthma attack. (But please don't try that at home!)

Duct tape was invented during World War II.

Courtesy of www.randomfaq.com

the late train. By Shay Atkinson
(sits up, breathes) I am awakened by smoke.
(sniffs). The smell is thick like burning leaves and trash.
Am I dreaming? (rubs eyes) no wait that is the cabin!
Startled, I spring to my feet (springs to feet)
I watch as few people do anything and
before I know it my legs are carrying me away from danger. (legs move away)
The thickness lingers as I watch it creep closer to me
Enveloping the 15 little old ladies I waited behind in line.
I remember them posing for a photo laughing about their shopping spree.
Unknowing of what was to come.
But I'm racing now looking for any authoritative figure.
The only direction to go, Away.
Far away from smoke.
Smoke? That equals fire, my elementary brain presumes.
But I swiftly, selfishly move on passing questioning, frightened faces of passengers
As I blindly stunt past with smoke nipping at my heels.
I'm a blur now.
I feel danger in the air as I catch quick nervous glimpses of the seated,
Their eyes following me as I braze past.
It is not until I reach the last car that I find help.
Four seated employees, talking, sipping their coffee.
Only when I approach to warn of the danger,
Nothing comes out.

Words of Wisdom

"Anyone who can walk to the welfare office can walk to work."
Al Capp

"A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew."
Herb Caen

"It seems like such a terrible shame that innocent civilians have to get hurt in wars, otherwise combat would be such a wonderfully healthy way to rid the human race of unneeded trash."
Fred Woodworth

Courtesy of www.brainyquote.com

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for March 25
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Alice in Wonderland (PG)
Sun: 2:40, 4:40, 6:40
Mon-Thurs: 4:40, 6:40
Fri: 4:40, 6:40, 8:40
Saturday: 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40

The Bounty Hunter (PG-13)
Sun: 2:30, 4:30, 6:30
Mon-Thurs: 4:30, 6:30
Fri: 4:30, 6:30, 8:30
Sat: 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (PG)
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Thurs: 5:00, 7:00
Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

Green Zone (R)
Sun: 2:20, 4:20, 6:20
Mon-Thurs: 4:20, 6:20

She's Out of My League (R)
Sun: 2:50, 4:50, 6:50
Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 6:50
Fri: 4:50, 6:50, 8:50
Sat: 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50

Coming Soon!

How To Train Your Dragon

Clash of the Titans

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for March 25
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net

The Tooth Fairy (PG)
Every night at 7:30

Coming Soon!

When In Rome
Dear John
Shutter Island

Measure Spotlight

